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Message Text

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63
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 AGR-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FRB-03 OMB-01 IO-11 /084 W
---------- 092159
R 021747Z MAR 76
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 649
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1761
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EEC
SUBJECT: STATUS OF THE COMMUNITY'S TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS

1. WE DISCUSSED WITH MEYNELL THE STATUS OF THE COMMUNITY'S CURRENT TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS. MEYNELL SAID THAT THE BRAZILIANS WERE BEING VERY ASTUTE IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS, PRESSING JUST SUFFICIENTLY TO PUT THE COMMUNITY IN A CORNER, BUT NOT SUFFICIENTLY TO JUSTIFY A BREAKOFF OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THEY HAD MADE LIBERAL USE OF THE THREAT TO MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF THE CIEC, THE UNCTAD AND OTHER FORUMS WITH NORTH/SOUTH POTENTIALITIES IF THE COMMUNITY BROKE OFF THE DISCUSSIONS. DURING THE MOST RECENT WEEKS THE BRAZILIANS HAD PUSHED THE DISCUSSIONS TO A POINT THAT SEVERAL OF THE MEMBER STATES' TEXTILE ADVISORS SUGGESTED A BREAKING OFF OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT WHEN THE MATTER HAD BEEN CARRIED TO THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, THE COMMITTEE HAD REMANDED IT TO THE TEXTILE EXPERTS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO EXPLORE THE SITUATION FURTHER. THIS ALLOWED CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
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BRAZILIANS. THE RESULT OF ALL THIS WAS THAT THE BRAZILIANS WERE

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GAINING A NUMBER OF CONCESSIONS, WHICH MEYNELL FELT WOULD POSSIBLY BEGIN TO PROMPT SOME OF THE EARLIER LDC SIGNERS TO SEEK IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR ARRANGEMENTS. MEYNELL WAS UNWILLING TO VENTURE A PROPHECY ON WHETHER THE NEGOTIATINS WITH BRAZIL WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL BUT GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE CHANCE THAT THE BRAZILIANS WOULD RECOGNIZE THE LIMITS BEYOND WHICH THEY COULD GO.

2. TWO REMAINING DIFFICULT PROBLEMS WERE COLOMBIA AND MEXICO. THE MEXICANS HAD TAKEN FOUR MONTHS TO RESPOND TO A COMMISSION REQUEST FOR DISCUSSIONS, BUT THEN HAD GONE HOME AND SAID THEY WOULD NOT COME BACK. THE COLOMBIANS HAD TAKEN EVEN LONGER TO RESPOND TO AN INVITATION TOTALK. MEYNELL FELT THAT THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE THAT IN ONE CASE OR THE OTHER (PROBABLY MEXICO), THE COMMISSION WOULD HAVE TO RESORT TO UNILATERAL RESTRAINTS.

3. OTHER PROBLEMS REMAINED WITH THE JAPANESE AND YUGOSLAVS. MEYNELL SAID THAT UNDER THE TERMS OF THE EXISTING AGREEMENT WITH YUGOSLAVIA, CONCLUDED UNDER THE NOW-DEFUNCT LTA, THE YUGOSLAVS HAD BEEN QUITE CONSCIENTIOUS ABOUT NOT ROCKING THE BOAT. CONSEQUENTLY, HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE TOO MUCH DIFFICULTY FROM THIS SIDE. HOWEVER, IN REGARD TO THE JAPANESE, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD GIVEN TO THE COMMISSION THE SHORTEST NEGOTIATIONS MANDATE IN THE ENTIRE TEXTILE FIELD. THE MANDATE MERELY STATED THAT THE COMMISSION WAS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE JAPANESE. ACCOMPANYING THIS MANDATE WERE CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS FROM VARIOUS MEMBER STATES ON WHAT SUCH A NEGOTIATION SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE. MEYNELL SAID THAT HE HAS NO IDEA WHAT HE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO DO ONCE THE COMMUNITY GETS INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE JAPANESE BECAUSE OF THE CONFLICTING MEMBER STATE OBJECTIVES. HINTON

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